

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT
Winter FACT SHEET No. 2
Columbia River Compact

January 23, 2004

Purpose:	To consider treaty Indian commercial fishing options for the mainstem Columbia River.
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Sturgeon Stock Status

A stock assessment was done for the Bonneville pool in 2003. The assessment indicates a decline in the population between 42 inches and 60 inches from the 1999 assessment. The estimate is that the population declined from over 14,000 to 6,800. The data indicate an especially sharp decline in the population between 48 inches and 60 inches which is the current tribal slot limit. This group declined from 3,200 to 1,000. This decline has necessitated changes in fishery management. The Sturgeon Management Task Force has met and discussed this. The tribes have responded by proposing that the tribal commercial harvest guideline for the Bonneville Pool be reduced from 1200 to 400 fish. The states have proposed reducing the sport harvest guideline from 1,700 to 750. In addition the tribes are proposing reducing the slot limit to 45-60 inches which will focus the fishery on the relatively more abundant smaller fish. The sport slot limit will remain unchanged at 42-60 inches. The harvest guidelines for The Dalles and John Day pools remain unchanged with treaty commercial guidelines of 900 and 335 respectively.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Season:	Noon Tuesday February 2 to Noon March 21 Or until the projected attainment of any of the pool harvest guidelines.
Area:	All of Zone 6.
Gear:	There will be no mesh size restriction at this time.
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries remain in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be sold. Sturgeon between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may be sold.
Miscellaneous Rules:	The quick reporting rule for Washington buyers will be in effect.

- The Compact previously set the dates, allowable sale, gear and sanctuary restrictions. The action needed is to address the slot limit for the Bonneville Pool and the harvest guideline.
- Allowed sales of platform and hook and line caught fish continue through this period and will not require Compact action at this time.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
January 23, 2004